

Superfund and Emergency Management Division

TRIBAL CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

VARIOUS REMOVAL/REMEDIAL ISSUES

Quapaw Nation, Tar Creek, OK: As of December 2020, investigation and remediation work for Tar Creek continues to move forward and make progress. Remediation work under Operable Unit 4 (OU4 – Chat Piles and Other Mining Wastes) addressed a total of 6 million tons of chat, with approximately 858,000 tons of marketable chat that was provided to chat processors for sale from multiple chat piles across the site. Remediation of approximately 1,000 acres of contaminated land in conjunction with surround properties brings the total Ready-for- Reuse property acres to approximately 4,700 acres of land. Through remediation cooperative agreements, the ODEQ has remediated approximately 1.3 million tons of mining waste and affected soils, while the Quapaw Nation has remediated approximately 2.4 million tons. Under OU2, the ODEQ continues to assess and remediate residential properties. To date, nearly 3000 residential properties have been remediated. During 2020, 35 properties were sampled, and remedial designs are underway for 16 of the 35 properties with projected design completion in 2021. Additionally, remediation of 15 properties is projected for completion in 2021. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Tar Creek OU5 (Surface Water and Sediments), OK: EPA continues to work with the seven (7) Tar Creek Trustee Council Indian Tribes, the Quapaw Nation, states, community and other federal agencies to plan, report and review the risk assessment and investigation reports, as well as the feasibility study. EPA completed revisions to the OU5 Human Health Risk Assessment Report and released it in March 2021. In February 2021, EPA released the Draft Preliminary Remediation Goal (PRG) Memorandum, held a Webinar presentation on February 23, 2021, and is accepting comments through April 16, 2021. The draft PRG Memorandum provides a summary of the approach and assumptions used to develop human health risk-based preliminary remediation goals based on the potential risk exposures identified in the human health risk assessment, in addition to identifying ecological preliminary remediation goals. EPA will continue to coordinate with the tribes interested in the Tar Creek Site through periodic meetings, conference calls, and document sharing, including planning and discussion meetings in support of watershed technology identification and evaluation. The Feasibility Study (FS) Phase of work began in November 2018, with Region 7 as the lead contact. Region 7, as well as Region 6, is conducting field pilot study activities which will provide information on available technologies and support evaluation of potential remedial options as these are developed. The next target milestone for OU5 is to work through the comments and revise the PRG Memorandum and continued coordination during the FS. In addition, EPA will work with the group to identify remedial action objectives and preliminary remediation goals. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Wilcox Oil Company, Bristow, OK: Construction of the Source Control Interim/Early Action, documented in the 2018 Source Control Record of Decision, is anticipated to begin in Summer 2021. This action will address approximately 25,000 cubic yards of source material located at eight former tank locations and approximately 5,800 cubic yards of lead source material in the

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lead additive area. Concurrently, the development of the Feasibility Study (FS) continues and included an August 2020 field event to collect additional data to fill gaps related to ground water nature and extent. The next milestones for the project will be the release of the revised Remedial Investigation Report, the revised Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments, and the draft FS. The draft FS is scheduled for release and comment by end of the 2021 calendar year. **John Meyer 214-665-6742**

Oklahoma Refining Company, Cyril, OK: ODEQ anticipates making a contract award this Spring 2021 after EPA awarded cooperative agreement funding to ODEQ last fall. The Operable Unit 2 (North Side) Remedial Action will consist of excavation of contaminated soils and sediments, on-site disposal of the excavated materials in the hazardous waste landfill, and recovery and monitoring of light non-aqueous phase liquids. EPA and ODEQ will continue to coordinate with and inform OK tribes on site milestones. **John Meyer 214-665-6742**

Circle 9 Resources Oil Spill, Seminole County, OK: On February 26, 2021, a 2,100-gallon oil spill into an unnamed creek with the potential to reach Little River, was reported to National Response Center. EPA deployed technical assistance (START) contractors to the site to observe and document site actions. START visited the site on February 27, 2021. The Responsible Party (RP) had responded to the spill by deploying hard and soft boom, constructing solid dams upstream and downstream of the spill in the unnamed creek and using vacuum truck skimmers to collect oil. No oil was observed in the Little River. The site is on private property within the Seminole Reservation. EPA coordinated with representatives of the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Seminole Nation as well as Department of the Interior and US Fish and Wildlife. Principal Chief Greg Chilcoat of the Seminole Nation visited the site and stated that he was satisfied with the progress and pace of response. The RP completed final clean-up operations on March 10, 2021 and requested a closure inspection by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. **Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220**

DJF Services Oil Spill, Seminole County, OK: On February 26, 2021, a 6,600-gallon oil spill into an unnamed creek was reported to National Response Center. The oil spill ultimately reached Little Wewoka Creek. EPA deployed technical assistance (START) contractors to the site to observe and document site actions. The Responsible Party (RP) had responded to the spill by deploying hard and soft boom and vacuum truck skimmers to collect oil. Oil was observed in Little Wewoka Creek as far downstream as Highway 56. As of the afternoon of March 1, 2021, START contractors reported the cleanup was progressing successfully with most of the visible oil recovered. START demobilized from the site on the evening of March 1. The site is on private property within the Seminole Reservation. EPA staff coordinated with representatives of the Muscogee Creek Nation and the Seminole Nation as well as the Department of the Interior and the US Fish and Wildlife. Principal Chief Greg Chilcoat of the Seminole Nation visited the site and initially stated a concern that progress was moving too slowly. EPA staff passed the concern on to the RP who agreed to get more staff on the response. A representative from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) inspected the site on March 10, 2021. The OCC representative reported that all visible oil and oiled booms had been removed from the impacted areas. The OCC representative instructed the RP to install clean sorbent boom at Highway 56 to capture any subsequently released oil. **Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220**

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Henryetta Iron and Metal Superfund Site, Henryetta, OK: The EPA conducted a removal site evaluation on November 2 - 13, 2020. The removal site evaluation involved the sampling of surface soil, subsurface soil, creek sediment, creek banks, naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) survey of soils and oil field piping, as well as performing certified property survey. This action was coordinated with the Remedial Program and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to serve all programs as this site is on the National Priorities List. Data will be reviewed upon receipt, and final determinations of contaminants of concern, cleanup levels, and actions to be taken will be made. *Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220 and John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine Site, Paguate, NM: Work continues in preparation of groundwater monitoring well installations during late winter and early Spring at the site. Atlantic Richfield was granted permit approval during POL Tribal Council meetings held in December 2020, for the locations and number of wells anticipated during Phase 1 Groundwater Monitoring. Directional road signs were installed during this quarter in preparation of sub-contractors mobilizing on-site in late winter. Brush was also cleared to improve access in some areas. Air quality data continues to be monitored 24/7 and is currently undergoing data validation and verification. Other media workplans are under review or revision. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

North Railroad Avenue Plume Site, Española, NM: On September 21, 2020, EPA completed a focused Remedial Investigation (RI) for vapor intrusion at the North Railroad Site and a focused human health risk assessment, a recommendation in a 2015 Five-Year Review, for a residential area and Santa Clara Pueblo land know to have shallow groundwater contamination from tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethene (TCE). No further action to mitigate indoor air vapors is warranted. The soil vapor plumes are related to a second plume of groundwater contamination discovered in 2016. This new groundwater plume is not associated with the North Rail Site but sourced from a second dry cleaner facility. This new plume is currently being addressed by the NMED. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

New Mexico Abandoned Uranium Mines – Five Year Plan: EPA is developing the 2021-2025 Five-Year Plan for the Grants Mining District. Input has been garnered from community meetings, meetings with NM agencies, and from meetings with the Pueblos of Acoma and Laguna. Once a plan is drafted incorporating ideas and input from stakeholders, it will be shared with plan partners and released for public comment. EPA plans to finalize the document in 2021. *Susan Webster 214-665-6784*

New Mexico Abandoned Uranium Mines – Tronox Mines: On September 28, 2020, Region 6 transferred the lead authority for the Tronox Section 32/33 Mines Site to EPA Region 9 due to the presence of Navajo Nation residents at the Site and scheduling challenges. Region 6 completed the draft final Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CA) for the Section 10 Mine, the East Geographic Sub-Area (GSA) Mines, the West GSA Mines, and the Central GSA mines in 2020 to meet the commitments made to the EPA Office of Inspector General. This work is funded by proceeds from the Tronox Settlement. Region 6 continues to participate in regular coordination meetings Region 9, Navajo Nation, NMED, and NM MMD to discuss priorities. *Craig Carroll 214-665-2220*

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Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines East, West and Central Geographic Sub-Areas and Section 10 Mine, Grants Mining District, NM: As of November 30, 2020, all of the Draft/Final Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses (EE/CA) documents for all Region 6 Tronox Navajo Area Uranium Mines (NAUM) Sites where Region 6 has lead authority were completed and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) notified by memorandum. These completions fulfilled EPA Region 6's commitments to the OIG for Recommendation 1, Corrective Action 1.2 - Complete Engineering Evaluations/Cost Analyses in Report No. 18-P-0233 for the Tronox NAUM sites on or before December 31, 2020. The East Geographic Sub-Area (GSA) and Section 10 Mine were completed on October 9, the West GSA was completed on November 9, and the Central GSA was completed on November 19. *Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220*

San Mateo Creek Basin Legacy Uranium Mines Site, NM: Field work associated with the groundwater Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study of the Lower San Mateo Creek Area is expected to begin in Spring 2021. The EPA reached an agreement in November 2019 with three former mine operators to investigate the nature and extent of the groundwater contamination and develop potential cleanup alternatives. *John Meyer 214-665-6742*

Johnny M Uranium Mine, Grants, NM: The EPA is currently negotiating an Agreed Order on Consent for the removal action Hecla Mining Company for the Johnny M. Mine cleanup. The non-Time Critical Removal Action will consist of an on-site repository. *Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220*

Oak Canyon Residential Site, Pagueate, Pueblo of Laguna, NM: Region 6 was contacted by the Pueblo of Laguna (POL) Environment Department about elevated radon test results in a residence. The EPA assessed the site of the residence, conducting radiological measurements and samples from several outdoor locations, to determine the potential presence of uranium residues and related radiological materials and conducted indoor radon testing and indoor radiation survey of the structure. The EPA completed a review of the data collected at the residential site and determined that some radiological materials should be removed and radon at the site should be mitigated. The next steps include working with POL on an access waiver so that a site walk with EPA contractors can be performed to determine the appropriate removal activities approach. *Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220*

SPCC/FRP Virtual Outreach Events: On March 31, 2021, EPA Region 6 will conduct a five-hour virtual Facility Response Plan/Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Plan (FRP/SPCC) compliance assistance presentation at an annual outreach workshop that is being held by the Forefront Emergency Management Co. located in Houma, LA. The objective of the workshop is to provide compliance assistance and to increase awareness on the SPCC/FRP programs for the Oil Industry. The presentation was requested by Forefront and has been an annual presentation that we have conducted with them over the past 10 years. *Craig Carroll, 214-665-2220*